

From the Pastor

On Wednesday, October 12 we will be observing the Day of Atonement. It is a day filled with meaning as all of God’s feasts are. In Leviticus 23:27-32 we read the instructions God gave concerning the observance of this special Feast. A portion of those instructions are, “Also the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls [lives]...For any person who is not afflicted of soul [not fasting] on that same day, he shall be cut off from his people...It shall be to you a Sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict your souls [lives]; on the ninth day of the month at evening, from evening to evening, you shall celebrate your Sabbath.”

There is a lot of information even in this abbreviated section of this passage. For example, in verse 32 we read that we should afflict our lives [fast] “on the ninth day of the month at evening, from evening to evening...” The Hebrew here for evening is ereb—defined as sunset in Hebrew lexicons. From this passage we see that ereb is primarily used to refer to the evening at the end of a day. So we fast from the end of the 9th day to the end of the 10th day—evening to evening.

This is different than the phrase in relation to the sacrificing of the Passover lambs—”in the evening” (Exodus 12:6 Old King James Version). The New King James Version says “at twilight.” The Hebrew here is best translated as “between the two evenings” or from sunset [ereb] to full dark. This is always at the beginning of the day—since a day begins at ends at sunset.

However, one important instruction for us is that the Day of Atonement is a day of fasting. Fasting is what the phrase “afflicting the soul” refers to. As we read in Isaiah 58:5, “Is it a fast that I have chosen, a day for a man to afflict his soul [life]?” Remember the English word “life” is a clearer meaning of the Hebrew nephesh [translated as “soul”] simply because the English word “soul” has so many erroneous ideas attached to it.

But, “afflicting one’s soul [life]” refers to the fact that we are to fast on the Day of Atonement. Why fast? The bottom line is that we fast because God said to. There is nothing magical about fasting of any by itself. Going without food and drink for 24 hours will do nothing for us, again, of and by itself—except make us hungry and thirsty. For fasting to have any spiritual benefit it must be coupled with a humble sincere attitude of wanting to seek God—draw closer to God. Fasting is not some form of self-flagellation “to make your voice heard on high” (Isaiah 58:4). Read all of Isaiah 58. It is instructive.

When we fast, what God is examining is what comes out of our hearts—what our motivation is. Are we truly wanting to develop a relationship with God or not? Remember, sin separates us from God (Isaiah 59:1-2).

In ancient Israel the sins of all Israel were symbolically atoned for on the Day of Atonement by the blood of the Lord’s goat that was sprinkled on the mercy seat in the Holy of Holies. For us the blood of God’s own Son—the perfect atonement sacrifice—is what covers our sins, but, only if we have a spirit of real repentance. Fasting that is acceptable to God comes from a heart that is truly repentant—one committed to changing.

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
Sunset Today in:	7:14pm	7:16pm	7:18pm
Sunset Friday 10-7	7:07pm	7:09pm	7:11pm



Weekly Sabbath 10-1-16	Trumpets 10-03-16
Victoria	Victoria
<i>Sermon:</i> Jim Chapman	<i>Sermonette:</i> Larry Tucker <i>Sermon:</i> Steve Moody
Corpus Christi	Corpus Christi
<i>Sermonette:</i> Arnold Mendez <i>Sermon:</i> Steve Moody	<i>Sermonette:</i> Gilbert Gonzalez <i>Sermon:</i> Arnold Mendez
Harlingen	
<i>Sermonette:</i> DVD <i>Sermon:</i> Michael Watts	

“My Little children, these things I write to you, that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation [atoning sacrifice] for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”
 1 John 2:1-2

Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 10/1	Regular locations and times for Corpus Christi, San Antonio, Harlingen and Victoria.
Feast of Trumpets 10/3	Regular locations for San Antonio and Victoria. San Antonio will have two services (10:30 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.). Victoria will have one service at 10:00 a.m. Corpus Christi will have combined services with Harlingen in Corpus Christi at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Moody will be in Victoria and San Antonio. Mr. Mendez will be in Corpus Christi. Mr. Chapman will speak in the morning at San Antonio.
Sabbath 10/8	Regular locations and times for Corpus Christi, San Antonio and Victoria. Mr. Moody will be in Corpus Christi. Mr. Chapman will be in San Antonio. There will be a DVD in Victoria. Mr. Mendez will be in Harlingen.

IN ACCORD: September 29, 2016 - Office Update by Jim Franks

Please tune in to In Accord this week when COGWA president Jim Franks provides an update from the Church office. The office is currently full, and our lease is up in May of 2017. Our current plans are to locate property in the general area of Allen and construct our own office building. Because of the time involved in completing such a project, we will renew our lease for an additional year, taking us to May of 2018. That gives us 21 months to find property and construct our own building. While this seems like plenty of time, it will require that we secure property by early 2017. In addition to the office update, Mr. Franks discusses the upcoming Feast of Trumpets.

HDO ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THOSE TRAVELING OUTSIDE THE U.S.: Holy day offerings for those traveling internationally: We often receive questions about holy day offerings from members who are either 1) unable to attend the holy days or 2) traveling outside the U.S. for the Feast of Tabernacles. In order to submit your holy day offerings and obtain a tax deduction for your U.S. federal income tax return, you will need to do one of the following:

1. Give your offering online at <http://cogwa.org/donate>. This is our preferred method, plus it allows you to make your offering on the holy day.
2. Give another family member or friend your offering so that it can be collected at a local congregation or U.S. Feast site.
3. Mail your offering to the donation address in Dallas:

COGWA, P.O. Box 731480,
Dallas, TX
75373-1480.

This year we have more than 1,000 members registered to attend the Feast of Tabernacles outside the U.S., which includes the large number of brethren attending this year in Victoria, British Columbia. This large number (20 percent of our U.S. attendance) makes it important that each member consider giving the major portion of his or her offering in the U.S. and not at the international site itself. However, we do believe that God expects us to bring an offering with us to the Feast (Deuteronomy 16:16), so we would encourage you to give a portion of your offering in the area where you will be attending.

As you consider what amount to give at the international Feast site you're visiting, please keep in mind that the headquarters office in Allen, Texas, sends a regular subsidy to most international areas to fund the spreading of the gospel message, the work of the Church and the expenses of the Feast of Tabernacles. In addition, there are some international areas where no subsidy is received, but where we do have employees, primarily ministerial, who are paid directly from the office in Allen.

If you have any questions, please contact Britton Taylor via email at britton.taylor@cogwa.org

Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

San Antonio Potluck: The next potluck will be between the Feast of Trumpets services on October 3 in the Family Life Center of the Church of Christ in San Antonio.

Trumpets: Corpus Christi and Harlingen will have combined services on Trumpets and a covered dish social. Services are at 1 pm.

Day of Atonement:

San Antonio – Service at 2:30 p.m.

Victoria – Service at 10:00 a.m.